

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update Oct 1 – 14, 2010

Dedicated to Napi the Burrowing Owl, he will be missed

Really? October already? How did that happen... Last day of fall migration monitoring was on October 10th, and the final tally of birds banded from August 1st through until now was 879. The American Tree Sparrows came through in bigger numbers during this two week period, I also had a late-ish Song Sparrow and another Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2nd of the year (Table 1).



I also happened to catch a Black-throated Blue Warbler on October 6th! I could hardly believe it when I walked up to net 9, I knew right away what it was, even though I have never seen one before. I guess my pass time of randomly flipping through bird books paid off, I would never expect to see a Black-throated Blue out west, and it certainly wouldn't have been on any of my ID tests in University,

we had focused on local birds! It was a very pretty bird, and had very distinct plumage. It wasn't the only individual of the species in the area, a Black-throated Blue Warbler was brought into the Wildlife Rehab Centre during the same week. Maybe we had a strange movement of this eastern species through our area? Anyway, that tops off my songbird banding year as my most exciting catch.

Big thanks to Geoff for covering songbird banding during the Steaks 'n Saw-whets weekend and to Gerry for bringing out his chain saw and stocking up my woodpile!

I've covered a few hours of Saw-whet banding lately, and so far Lisa has had the big night, with 19 owls on October 5th! I tried to catch up to her on the 12th when I caught 17, but couldn't quite make it. Ah well, I have a month left of Saw-whet Monitoring to see if I can have a bigger night! Feel free to join me at the lab anytime I am banding, just call ahead to check I am working and the weather is good (780-817-9927).

Katie



The Saw-whet Owls continued to move through in really good numbers. October 1 and 2 we celebrated our 7th Steaks and Saw-whets event. Over 100 visitors enjoyed the annual steak and chicken barbeque over the two nights, with all the fixings. As homemade desserts were served up the nets were set, and we were pleased to catch nine owls on Friday and eight owls on Saturday. Every single visitor was present to see the owls.

We also had the Wild Rose Outdoor Club from Camrose visit us and we had a busy night of banding with 14 owls. There were 149 saw-whets banded the first half of October, and there were two recaptures (one from a previous night and one banded at Bob Gehlert's site near Lindbrook last year). We have to acknowledge all the volunteers that helped at the Steaks and Saw-whets event and Geoff Holroyd and Gerry have been helping with banding on various nights when we are on days off. Katie takes over the Saw-whet Owls now till November, so I will pass the updates back to her. I will be out to take over a few days off and for five nights in November. We are hoping to have more completed coverage in November to try and determine when the end of saw-whet movement happens.



Lisa

Table 1. Results from Fall Migration Monitoring October 1 – 10th, 2009.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Tree Sparrow	53	9	0	0	7	69
Black-capped Chickadee	4	14	0	0	1	19
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	0	0	0	2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Slate-colored Junco	9	2	0	0	1	12
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total	74	27	0	0	9	110

Net Hours: 431.00 NH
Capture Rate: 25.29 birds/ 100 NH

- 1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.
- 2 Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).
- 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).

